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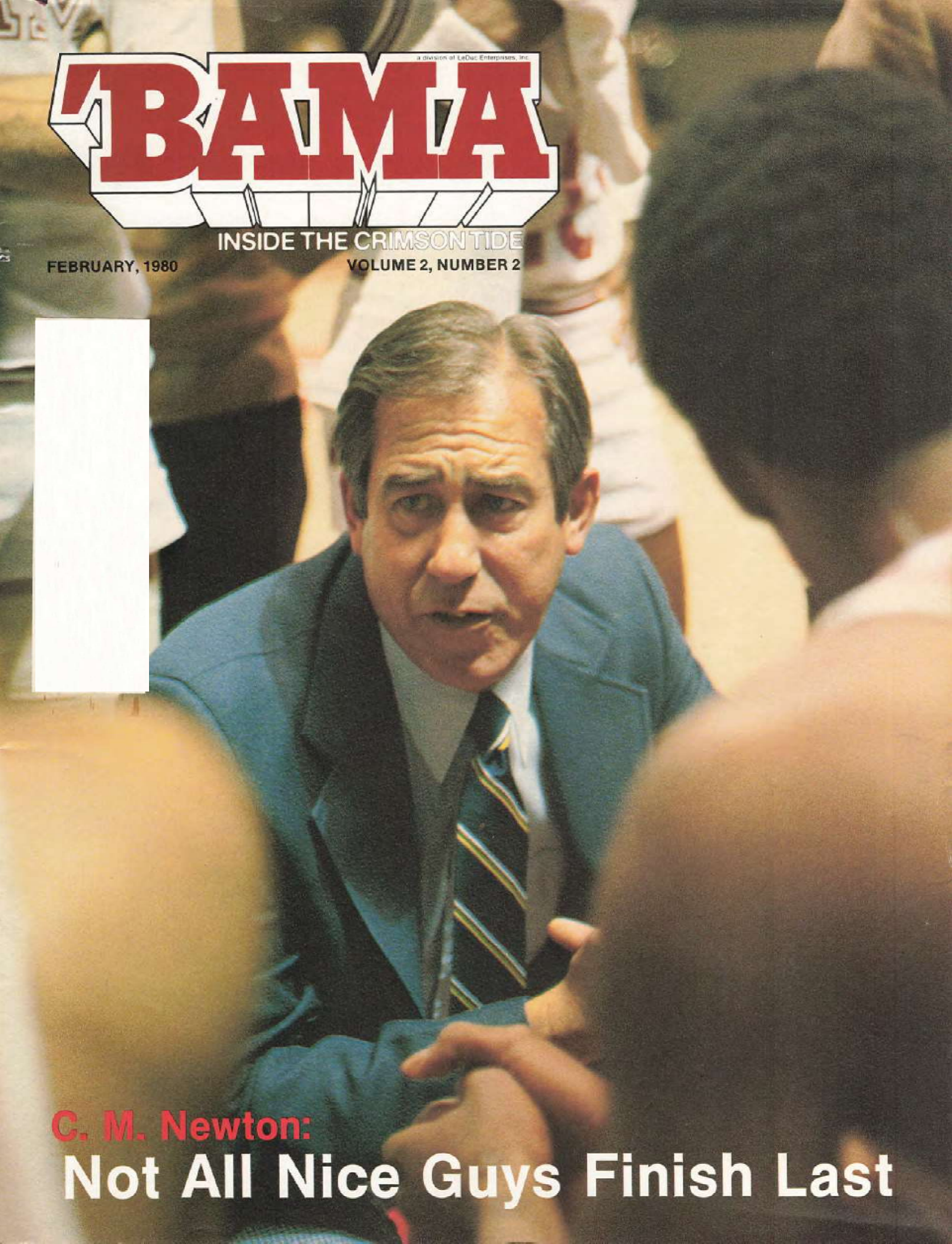
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

FEBRUARY, 1980 VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2



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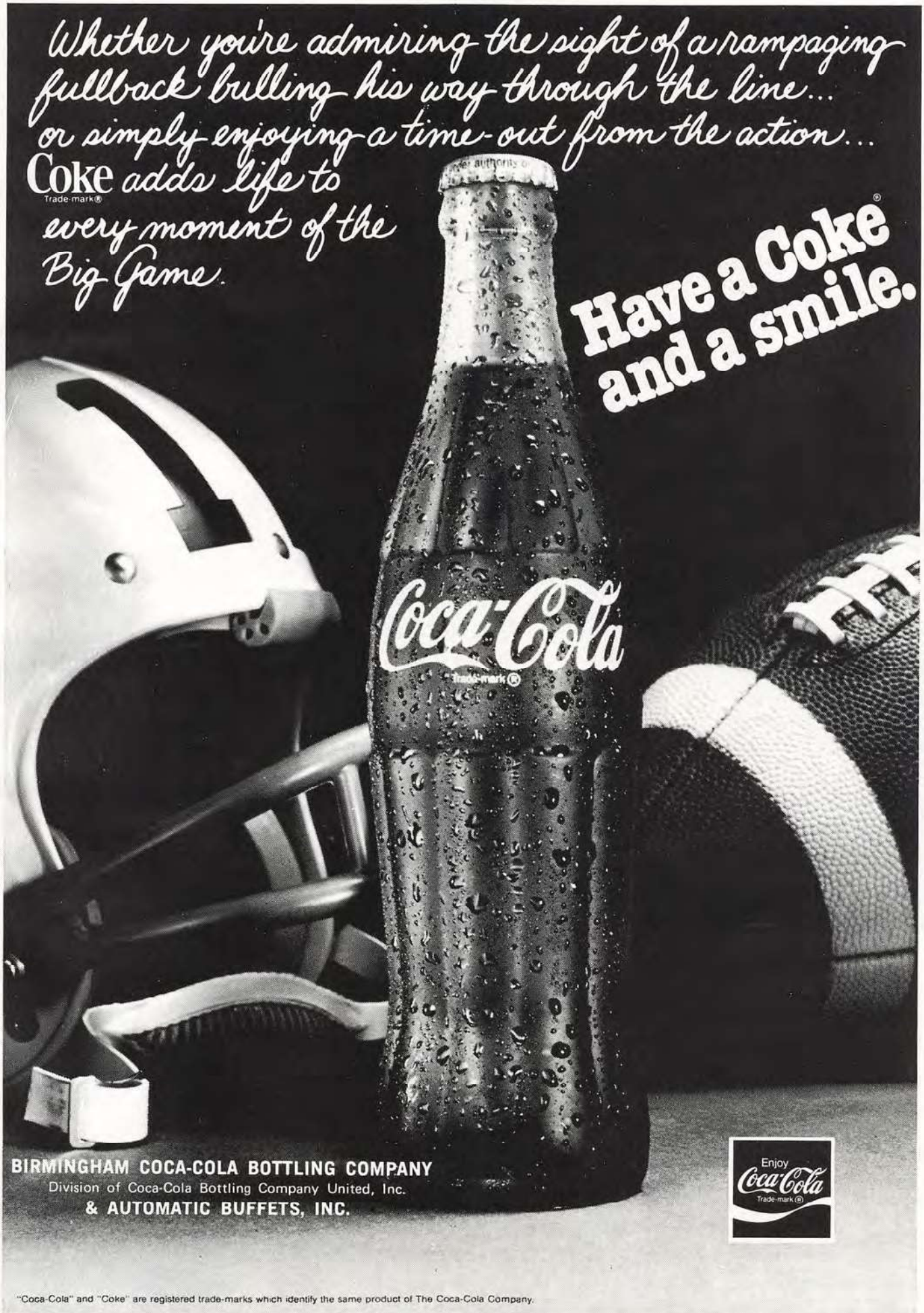
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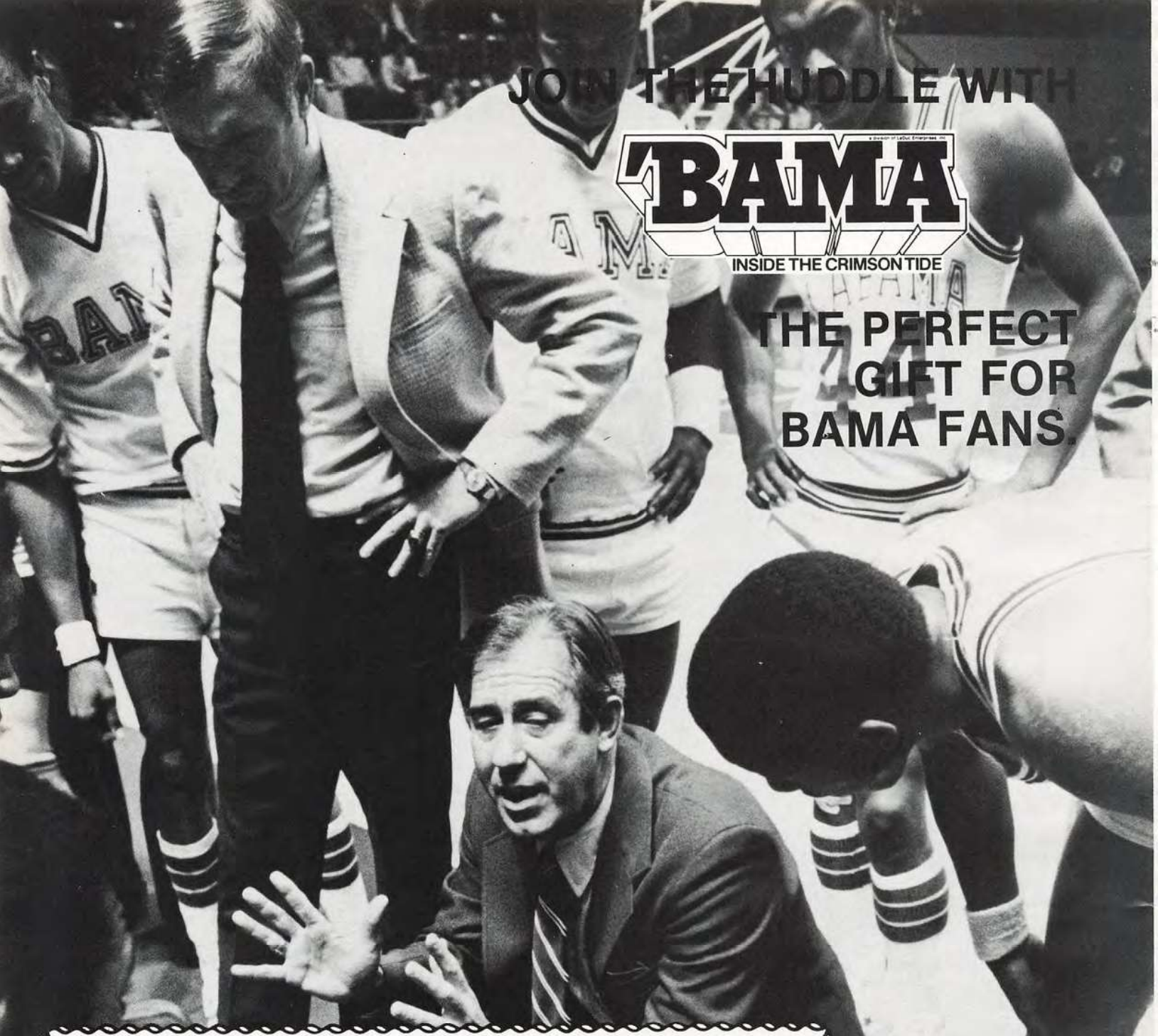

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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Growing Up The Hard Way

by Cecil Hurt

The stretch run of the SEC basketball season should be just the thing to get Alabama's young Crimson Tide ready for the SEC tournament at the end of February.

That is, if it doesn't kill them first.

The Tide, a team that most experts felt would occupy the lower middle-class of the conference standings, was playing with kingship as the month of February began, sitting atop the conference with an 8-3 record, and a schedule that was the envy of the other contending coaches. Unfortunately for Bama, notoriety accompanied success, and the team that had surprised the conference in January was now the team that everyone was shooting for, with a vengeance.

Kentucky and LSU, the acknowledged powerhouses of the SEC, and dynamic squads from Ole Miss and Georgia, both seeking to move into the upper echelon of the league, all had to be confronted in the first nine days of February. Three of the four games ended in heart-breaking losses for the Crimson Tide, a bitter blow for a team that was flirting with the conference crown, but one which will have an important educational value in Birmingham at the end of this month. Just how valuable those lessons will be was illustrated in the lone Tide victory, a triumph over adversity and outright exhaustion that bodes well for the Tide's tourney hopes.

The first of the four foes that Alabama faced in the crucial week-and-a-half was Mississippi, much improved since the easy Tide victory earlier in Tuscaloosa. In fact, the Rebels came into the game at Oxford after a big upset over Tennessee in Knoxville, and the sleepy little Mississippi hamlet was a basketball hotbed, at least on that Saturday.

Alabama started the game, however, as if Oxford had better stick to William Faulkner and pretty girls. The Crimson Tide jumped out to an early six-point lead on strong inside play by Eddie Phillips and quick penetration by senior Robert Scott. Ole Miss hung on in those early minutes, thanks mostly to some dazzling outside shooting by forward Elston Turner, then took advantage of a Bama cold spell and some clutch perimeter shooting to carry a 32-26 lead into the lockerroom.

Coach Bob Weltlich's patient offense thrives on a lead, and Ole Miss soon had the Tide by nine ponts, and, seemingly, on the ropes.

This is where the real success story for the Tide begins.

Instead of folding up their tents and beating a quick path back to Alabama, the Crimson Tide roared back with a challenge of its own. Junior forward Ken Johnson got the hot hand for the team outside, and freshman guard Mike Davis contributed some clutch offense and aggressive defense, and suddenly the nine-point deficit was two. The Rebels stretched the lead to four, regained possession of the ball, and once again seemed to be in control, when Davis came up with a crucial steal, only to be cut off on the break by Rebel Elston Turner, then whistled for an offensive foul in the ensuing collision. From this point, the Tide was unable to stop at Ole Miss procession to the foul line, and suffered a 71-65 loss.

The real story, however, was not the loss, which knocked the Tide out of first place, but the comeback—showing rare courage, and nearly pulling a big win against a team that was playing at the top of its game. The story was to have a sequel in Tuscaloosa four days later.

The LSU Tigers, probably one of the most talented units in America, came to town for a matchup of the conference's top two teams—and still smarting from a 57-56 loss administered by the Tide in

Sophomore Eddie Phillips returned to the form that won him SEC Freshman of the Year honors last season. The talented forward had a career-high 30 points against Mississippi State. Joel Barnes photo

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Baton Rouge. After some brief early sparring resulted in a 20-17 LSU lead, the Tigers suddenly shifted into high gear and jumped to a 13-point lead, 30-17, that remained as high as 11 at the half, 38-27. Most of the damage had been done by inside work from Rudy Macklin and outside shots by Howard Carter, and only the steady play of unflappable senior Rah Scott, who had 11 first half points, enabled the Tide to hang in.

The second half began as the first half ended, and the Tigers soon had the largest lead of the game at 42-27, on a breakaway layup by Carter.

That's when the second part of the Tide's saga of pride began to unfold.

Aggressive defense, lacking in the first half, showed in the Tide's second half play, and, coupled with clutch offense from Scott and Phillips, soon had the Tide back in the contest. Alabama showed all the classic ingredients of a great comeback—patient offense and scrappy defense, with yeoman work on the glass at both ends. The result of this tried-and-true formula was a Tide lead, 57-56, on Eddie Phillips' layup at 8:30 of the second half. From there on, the Tide held LSU at bay until Willie Sims' steal and dunk with 20 seconds left put the Tigers back on top, 66-64. The omnipresent Scott answered with a basket, then blocked Ethan Martin's last-second jumper to put the game into overtime.

The extra period was an anti-climax to a superbly played game. LSU controlled the tap and stalled until the game's final four seconds, when Mike Davis whistled for holding Willie Sims far away from the basket. Sims put through the one-and-one free shots, and ended the game at 68-66. For the second game in a row, the Tide had worked a full shift, only to be denied at the pay window.

There was no time for the Bama team to suffer the mental letdown that usually follows such an emotional loss, because yet another revenge-minded conference power, the Kentucky Wildcats, were coming to town Saturday, and Coach C. M. Newton and his charges knew that a loss in the regionally-televised contest would be a death-blow to any realistic hopes of a regular season conference title.

The result, unfortunately for the Tide's hopes, was the same, although the script was a little bit different. This time, Alabama played well in the first half, combining solid zone defense with the offensive pyrotechnics of Robert Scott, who scored 12 points in the game's first 11 minutes. After the first half, Bama, for a refreshing change, was leading at the half, 37-31, and seemed very much in control of the situation.

In the second half, however, Alabama's zone, so effective earlier, was shredded by uncanny marksmanship from the Cat's two senior guards, Jay Shidler and Kyle Macy, who exhibited the kind of long-range bombing that is usually prohibited by arms limitation treaties. The Wildcats' second-half field goal percentage was a deadly 88 per cent, mostly on 20-foot jumpers, and proved to be too much, even for the valiant Crimson Tide, who scrapped until the end for opportunities, and were finally subdued only by flawless Wildcat free throw shooting.

After the game, coach C. M. Newton said, "This may sound crazy coming from a coach who has just lost three in a row, but I'm proud as can be of our team. They've played well enough to win, against three greatly improved teams, and I only hope we continue to play this way. If we do, we'll beat some people before the season's over."

Despite coach Newton's promising prediction, the Alabama team that took the floor two nights later in Athens, Georgia, looked anything but a winner. The Bulldogs left Alabama behind at the start of the game, jumping out to a 23-6 lead with in incredible outburst of offensive basketball that produced more jams than Smucker's. The "Dunking Dogs", led by Dominique Wilkins, just returned from a knee injury, ran rings around the tired Alabama starters, and coach Newton had to go to the bench for help.

Help came in the persons of Maurice Myers and Carl Mitchell, Eddie Adams and Cliff Windham. The reserves took up the slack left by the usual Tide heroes. Phillips or Johnson, Scott or Lockett, and slowed the Georgia express, playing with great gusto and scoring some desperately needed points. By the time the first unit returned late in the half, momentum had shifted and the once-huge Georgia lead was down to six.

In the second half, the Tide fought back again and again against fatigue, foul trouble, and cold shooting. After a brief Tide rally early in the half, Georgia again stretched the lead to 11 points, 51-40, with less than five minutes remaining. Then the heroes throughout the drama, the Tide, did it again. They came back. The Georgia big men, whose reckless defense had shut down 'Bama early, were now in foul trouble and Eddie Phillips, saddled with four fouls himself, became the absolute monarch of the inside game. Phillips and Scott led a ferocious charge from behind, which culminated in a Phillips' putback (one of his 20 rebounds) to send the game into overtime at 58-58.

Appropriately, however, it was one of the reserves who scored the team's first crucial hoop in the extra period. Cliff Windham, the hustling freshman from Livingston, scored a key basket off the offensive boards to answer a Georgia score, then made a beautiful pass underneath to Phillips for another big bucket. The clincher was, however, saved for another substitute, Eddie Adams, who stole a Georgia pass with six seconds left, and scored to give Alabama an insurmountable four-point lead. At last, the ball had bounced Alabama's way at the end, the Tide coming home with a 66-64 win, earned mostly on intestinal fortitude and the kind of composure that is learned in big games, as the preceding three.

The Georgia win was crucial both for "team morale", as coach Newton put it, and for the not-too-distant future of the conference tournament, Robert Scott summed up the Georgia win as "important for the tournament, as we are trying to finish as high as possible now. We also showed we have quality guys on the bench, which will sure help in the tournament." Most important of all, however, the Georgia game serves as concrete evidence that the Tide will go into the SEC tourney not only a little older, but a whole lot wiser.

ALABAMA NET NOTES—Ken Johnson's first basket of the Georgia game was his 1,001st career point. Teammate Robert Scott joined the 1,000 point club earlier in the year . . . Eddie Phillips' 20 rebounds in the Georgia game is a new career high. Eddie is having a great year on the boards, as his per game average of 11.9 ranks in the top 10 nationally . . . The Georgia win also marked Coach C. M. Newton's first win in his second half-century. Coach Newton turned 50 on February 2. . .Recruiting is starting to heat up, and the Crimson Tide expects a good year in this area. Along with their usual interest in the top in-state talent, the coaching staff has been working hard throughout the South, and as far afield as New England and the Great Lakes area in search of high school talent.

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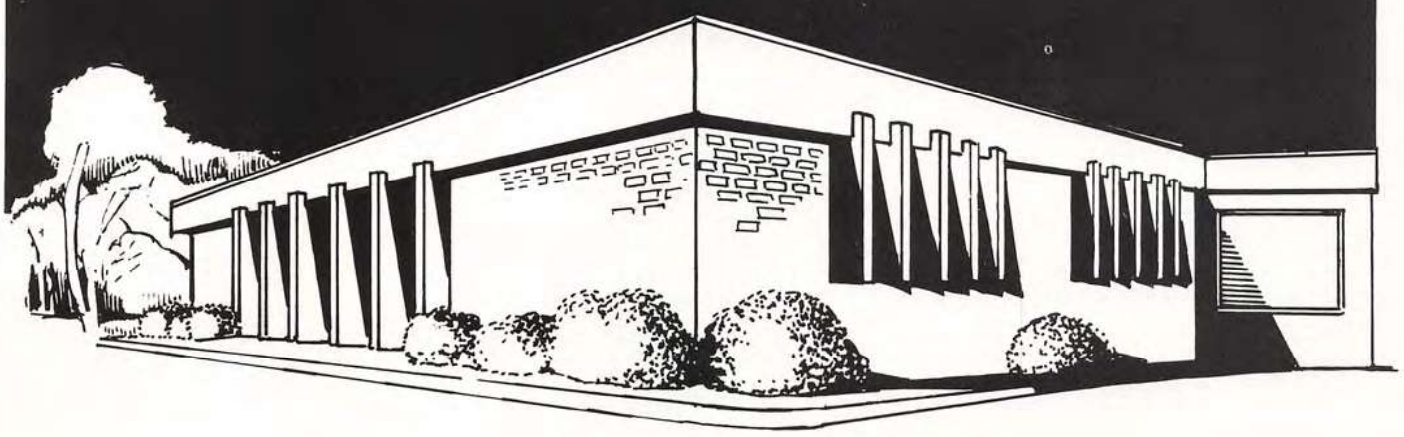


The Best of The '70s:

Alabama's Team Of The Decade

by Mike Bolton

Southeastern Conference coaches who winced as Alabama took eight of a possible ten SEC championships during the 1970's can look at the final balloting of Alabama's Team of the Decade and with a clear mind say "no wonder."

Eleven members of the Team of the Decade made their way to the professional ranks and six more will get that chance either this year or the next. Tired of the suspense? Here is Alabama's Team of the Decade as chosen by you, the reader of 'BAMA.

The Offense

PLAYER OF THE DECADE—"Ozzie Newsome is the greatest end I have ever coached," Alabama head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant has said time and time again and what is good enough for the Bear is evidently good enough for the 'BAMA reader.

The talented wide receiver of the Cleveland Browns was eligible for two positions and he swept both by wide margins. Newsome was in the unique position of being listed on over 100 per cent of the ballots as many had the "Wizzard of Oz" listed at both spots.

Newsome holds the Alabama record for most yards gained in a career (2070), but stats could never tell the story of his tripled-covered catches or his one-handed diving snags. Catches such as the one at right were commonplace for the Oz.

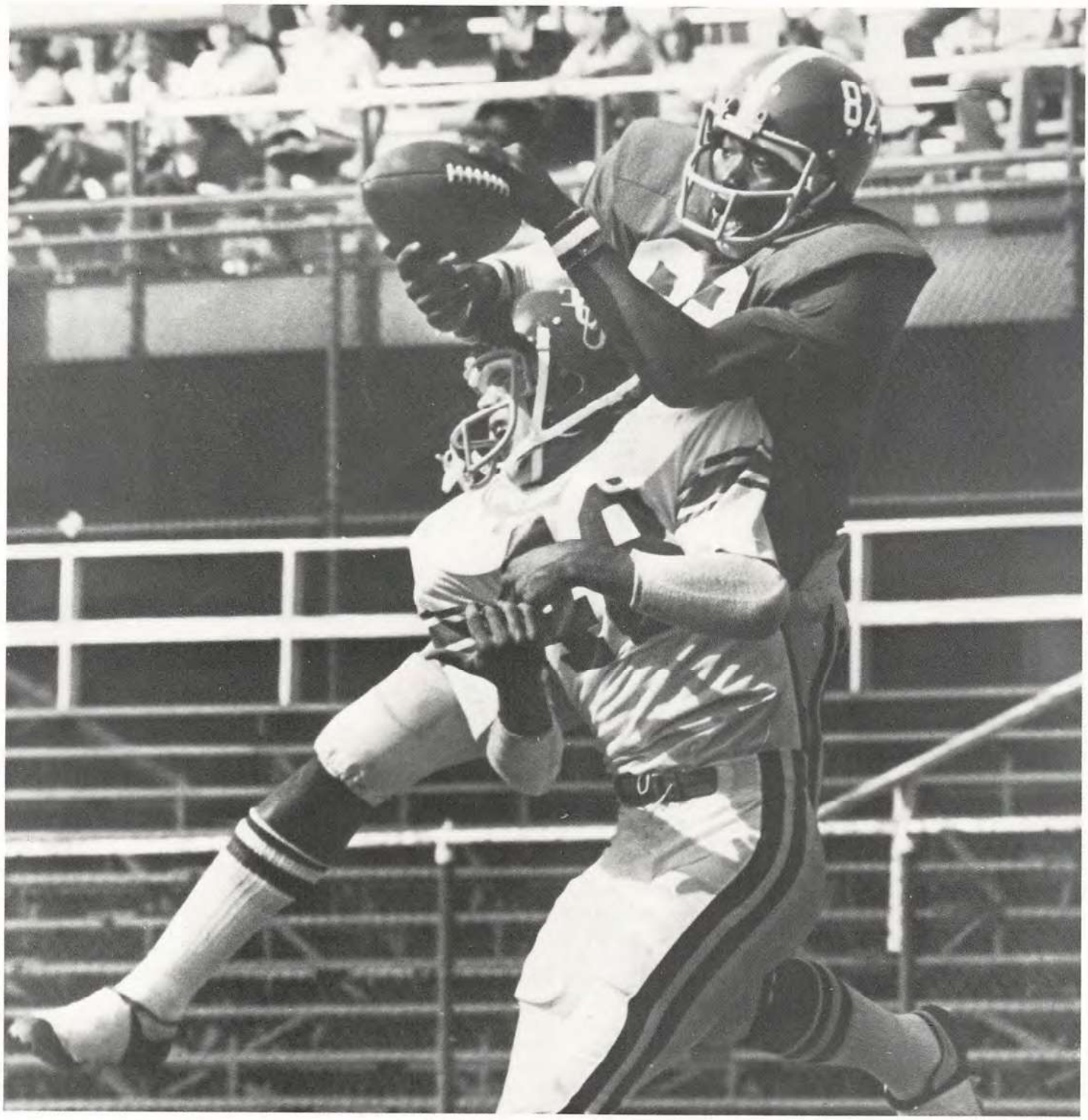
The four-year letterman was All-SEC in 1976 and 1977, the same years he won All-America status. Ozzie was the Birmingham Monday Morning Quarterback Club and the Atlanta Quarterback Club's most valuable player in successive years.

QUARTERBACK—The Alabama quarterback has become an envious title, but quarterback of the decade must be extra special. **Richard Todd** now owns the title that even Joe Namath and Kenny Stabler could not hold. The likable blond from Mobile had to deal with the likes of Jeff Rutledge and Steadman Shealy in a close race, but the New York Jets quarterback came out smelling like a rose. Richard never made an All-America team and doesn't hold a single Alabama record, but 'BAMA readers remembered him for the ability to win football games.

Richard was the most valuable player in the 1975 Sugar Bowl and also the *Nashville Banner* and Birmingham Quarterback Club's most valuable back awards in 1971. He was also a member of the Senior Bowl and College All-Star teams his senior year.

HALFBACKS—It is a safe bet that no future decade will produce a pair of crowd favorites such as **Johnny Musso** and **Major Ogilvie.** Musso won his title by one of the largest margins, while Ogilvie squeaked out a win over Wilbur Jackson by one of the shortest margins.

Left, Murray Legg came to Alabama as a quarterback from a state championship high school team, but quickly found himself as a defensive back. He made the adjustment with relative ease. Right, The Wizardry of Oz. Ozzie Newsome's often unbelievable catches led to his selection of Alabama's Player of the Decade. University of Alabama photos



Johnny gained about every imaginable title in his four years for his ability to block and run, as well as his efforts in the classroom. Johnny was All-SEC in '69-'70-'71 and All-American in '70 and '71.

Major still has a year of eligibility and bigger and better things are no doubt in store for him. An All-SEC title and a Sugar Bowl MVP this past season is a very good start, however.

FULLBACK—The running of **Johnny Davis** brought comparisons of everything from a bull to a United Postal Service truck by sportswriters and heaps of praise from opponents. The Tampa Bay Buccaneer made All-America in 1977 after ending a brilliant career that brought letters in 1975-77.

CENTER—Psychologists have long said mild-mannered people are the most dangerous and **Dwight Stephenson** is a good way to back that up. The almost-shy Virginia native let his actions on the field do the talking and won such titles as All-America and the Jacobs Award in 1979. Professional football is in his future and Dwight is expected to be a high draft choice in the upcoming draft. Dwight was another of several landslide winners.

GUARDS—Professional football may not have at the moment a better lineman that **John Hannah.** The chicken farmer from Albertville joined **Buddy Brown** to garner guards of the decade honors. The All-Pro of the New England Patriots narrowly missed being the only player mentioned on every ballot. Buddy fought off a stiff challenge by Mike Brock to take his title. The pair are both All-Americas that captured Jacobs awards and All-SEC titles.

TACKLES—Jim Bunch and **Buddy Adeylette** have found themselves together, again. The pair from the national

Richard Todd outpolled a host of talented quarterbacks Alabama possessed during the 1970's. Todd easily defeated fellow pros Scott Hunter and Jeff Rutledge as well as crowd favorites Gary Rutledge and Steadman Shealy.

University of Alabama photos

championship teams of 1978 and '79 have joined forces this time as the tackles of the decade. Jim is a two-time All-America while Adeylette changed from a skinny freshman tight end to one of Alabama's staunchest tackles ever. Both won their spots with relative ease.

The Defense

There was no doubt more talent per position on defense than offense and it showed in the closeness of the final ballot of many positions.

ENDS—Leroy Cook and **E. J. Junior.** Justice prevails in the fact no back of an Alabama opponent ever had to worry about both of them since they were several years apart. Cook was a two-time All-America and twice All-SEC. Junior, with a year remaining, bossed one end on last year's defense that led the nation in stopping opponents short of the goal line.

TACKLES—There was only slight justice here. **Bob Baumhower** starred for the defense of the 1976 squad and when it was time for a breather, a youngster named **Marty Lyons** was brought in. Lyons grew into a big fellow, too, and both head the list for tackles of the decade.

Bob, now an All-Pro with Miami, and Marty, now with the New York Jets, were both All-Americas before turning pro. Both were relatively easy winners.

NOSEGUARD—Rolly-Polly middle guard **Gus White** loved nothing more than fried chicken and slamming into enemy backs. The 245 pounder often scooted up to 270 during the off-season and kept his teammates rolling at his attempts to return to playing weight. He became a crowd favorite in 1975 when he ran back in intercepted pass for a touchdown against Vanderbilt, only to have it nullified by a penalty.

LINEBACKERS—Barry Krauss and **Woodrowe Lowe** both headed to the pros after successful college careers that saw each win All-America honors. Krauss was the most valuable player in the Liberty Bowl as a sophomore and in the Sugar Bowl as a senior. His stop on the well-known "gut check" plays will never be forgotten. Lowe was a three-time All-America, a feat not often duplicated.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Mike Washington, Murray Legg, Ricky Davis and **Don McNeal** would fare well on many a pro team, so needless to say, their collegiate play was outstanding. Washington was a clear-cut winner as was McNeal, while Legg had somewhat of a struggle and Davis a big fight. Davis narrowly edged out freshman Tommy Wilcox for his spot.

Washington, now with Tampa Bay made All-America in 1974, while McNeal pulled down the same honor in 1979. Legg is best remembered for his help in the goal-line stand of the 1978 season Sugar Bowl although he was a fine player in his own right. Davis is best remembered as a hustler and that hustle earned him a berth in several post-season all-star games after his senior season ended, as well as a pro career.

The Kickers

PLACEKICKER—Bill Davis edged out Alan McElroy and Bucky Berry in the closest three-way battle of the ballots. The Columbus, Georgia native outpolled a field of five regulars for his title.

PUNTER—Greg Gantt won a pair of All-SEC titles in his brilliant kicking career and he also narrowly edged out his competitors for the title. Woody Umphrey was nipped at the wire by the Birmingham native.

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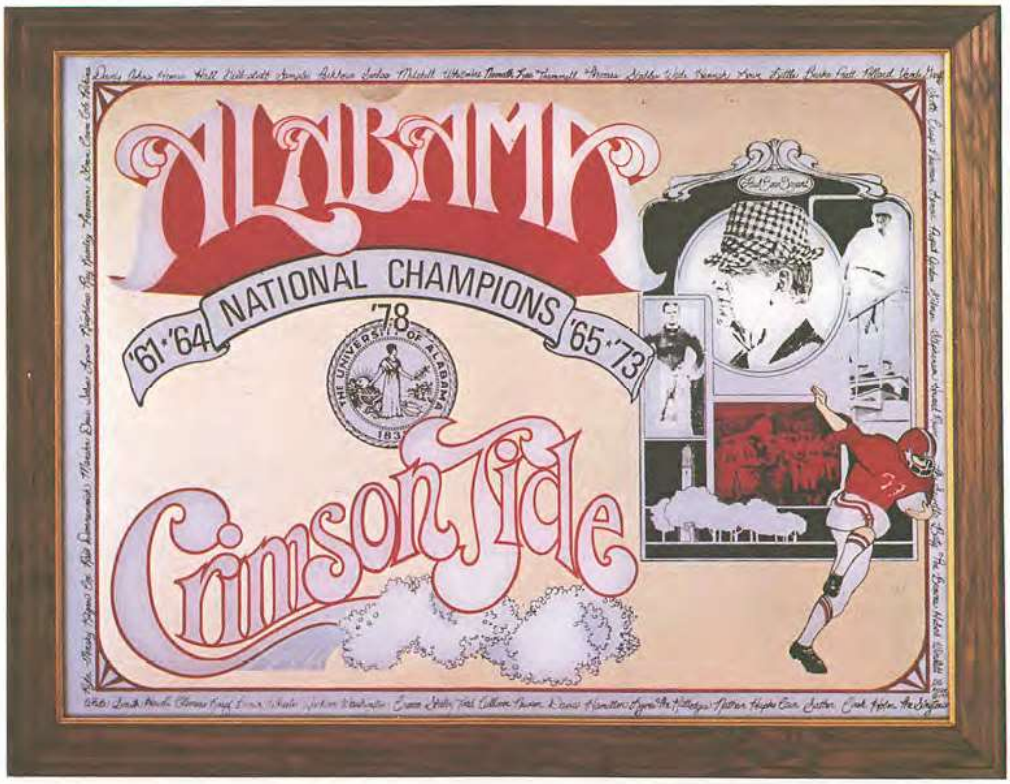

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Alabama Baseball:

Time To Head Back To The Top

by Mike Bolton

Sitting alone on the hard plank bleachers of Jefferson State junior college armed with charts and a stopwatch, Barry Shollenberger looked like anything but a savior basking in glory.

Seventy-two hours earlier he had been named head baseball coach at Alabama and for this man chosen to bring Alabama back to the baseball fortunes it once enjoyed, the hoopala was already over.

Here he was early on this balmy summer morning sitting on a dewy seat shielding the sun from his eyes and taking notes. Lots of notes.

The Cincinnati Reds were holding a tryout camp at the junior college and Shollenberger himself was looking for help. He was already some three weeks behind in recruiting and he was just about looking for the impossible—a player ready for college and good enough to play in the Southeastern Conference, but one not good enough for the minor leagues. A player of SEC caliber, but one that had not been gobbled up by other state coaches.

Shollenberger hit the roads and he hit the phones taking advantage of every connection he had acquired in his young career. Before the summer was over, Shollenberger had signed 21 players to play for the Tide in the upcoming season. They weren't rejects either, one scout says. Shollenberger managed to garner players who were waiting to decide between two other schools. He had talked Alabama and swung players who had their minds made up about elsewhere, too.

He had raided the junior college ranks for these players and the ones he had not got he used for his advantage, also. Why had they not wanted to go to Alabama? He took their answers and studied them carefully.

He quickly hired the first full-time baseball assistant coach in the school's history and added a talented group of graduate assistants. That had been one complaint. Facilities had been another. He hired a graduate assistant that specialized in field work and Thomas Field turned into a thing of beauty almost overnight. New fences were added, 5,000 new aluminum seats were installed and winter rye grass was planted.

The nasty weather of late January and early February had hampered last year's team to the point of only three days of practice outside before it's first game. Bracing for the worst, Shollenberger installed a batting cage complete with pitching machine inside Memorial Coliseum. Hoping for the best, he installed a pair of batting cages outside with pitching machines.

Housing had been another complaint of prospective Tide baseballers. The new crop Shollenberger signed was greeted last fall by Crimson Towers, the newest addition to Alabama athletic housing.

And with those visable bugs worked out of his new program, Shollenberger set his sights on his number one problem, a problem he had not expected to be so strong. With the countdown of his first game as Alabama's head baseball coach changing from months to weeks and now to days, he openly discusses the problem.

"The main thing I've run into here is that Alabama fans can't relate to anything but a winner," he says. "We can install new seats and make a lot of improvements, but the bottom line I've seen is that we're going to have to put a winner on the field."

Winning Alabama baseball is not a new idea on campus. Alabama still dominates the Southeastern Conference record books in total SEC wins and SEC titles. Alabama has put 43 former players into the major leagues and its 11 SEC titles almost doubles the titles of the runnerup. Those type of bragging statistics are not of recent vintage, however. The Alabama baseball program that once was so far ahead of its game has been caught up to in recent years. Shollenberger has been hired to make sure it doesn't continue.

"Alabama hasn't been getting bad in recent years, the other teams have just been getting so much better," Shollenberger explaines. "It used to be you had Ole Miss and Alabama in the Western Division and the two were the best. They have added Auburn to the division and they are always good. Used to be everybody could beat Mississippi State, but now they are national contenders. LSU has gotten so much better in just a matter of a couple years. The whole league has just gotten better where Alabama used to dominate."

Shollenberger got his introduction to Alabama baseball in 1974 and 1975 when he served as a graduate assistant to Hayden Riley, the recent Tide mentor who retired last season due to health reasons. Shollenberger's pitching staff of 1974 finished ninth in the nation as the team won a school record of 37 games against 16 losses. Alabama also captured the SEC Western Division crown.

Alabama, with Shollenberger in his last year as an assistant, went 34-32 in 1975 for the Tide's last 30-game winning season. Alabama's record fell to 25-18 in 1976, 27-18 in 1977, 23-20 in 1978 and finally to 18-27 in 1979, including only four SEC contest wins in 21 outings.

Shollenberger, meanwhile, had gone to

Middle Georgia as its head baseball coach in 1976 and quickly posted a 44-10 record to become the Georgia Junior College State Champions. It was evident his talents were never meant for a junior college, however. Western Kentucky hired the 35 year old coach away from Middle Georgia after just a single year to see if he could work some miracles with its struggling program. Shollenberger inherited a team that had posted a 13-41 record over the past two seasons and went 20-23 in his first season.

It turned out that 1978 was the little school's year as Shollenberger led his squad to a 26-19 record to clinch the first division championship in 12 years for the school. The squad had set 22 school marks and Shollenberger was an unanimous choice for Ohio Valley Conference's Coach of the Year.

Riley, who suffered through the 1979 season with diabetes, found each day tougher to face. He coached the season against his doctor's best wishes and when the season was over the doctor forced him into resignation. Riley made it clear before leaving his choice for his replacement would be Shollenberger.

Roger Smith, Alabama's first full-time baseball assistant, was hired away from Georgia Southern's highly productive program and he has dealt with a great deal of the recruiting as Shollenberger handles the at-home problems. Shollenberger's strategy in recruiting deals with getting top high school and junior college prospects in the southeast to the campus in Tuscaloosa for at least a visit.

That type of strategy helped land a lot of talent for the upcoming season.

Also big in recruiting was the added improvements Shollenberger initiated and the addition of what he calls "big names" to the schedule. Alabama has dropped some of the smaller schools that dotted its schedule last season and picked up the likes of Florida and Kentucky from the Eastern Division of the SEC plus names like Georgia Southern and Jackson State.

"We wanted to add some big names to the schedule so that our guys can learn some baseball early," Shollenberger says. "We play Georgia Southern February 22 to open the season and I guarantee you will learn some baseball that weekend.

"We play all four teams that were in the sectional tournament last season. Our guys will get to see some good baseball teams this season and hopefully it will make us a better team."

The season is almost upon him, but Shollenberger can still only guess at his lineup. The 1979 squad graduated 13 seniors including seven pitchers leaving Shollenberger without a single experienced returning hurler. Needless to say, pitchers were his number one item in recruiting and he came away with some gems.

Shollenberger went after and got junior college All-America David Zitkus from College of Lake County in Grays Lake, Illinois. The lefthander will most likely be in the starting rotation against Georgia Southern. Other pitcher signees showing lots of potential include the highly recruited Dennis Alvarez out of Middle Georgia junior college (17-2, two years), Keith Harper, a teammate of Zitkus' at Lake, (7-0 last year) and Mike Draper, a 6-4, 205 pounder from Florida junior college.

Shollenberger also cites freshman recruits Robert Payne, Moundville; Dave Peterson, Aurora, Illinois and Alan Melson, Hartselle as ones to watch as the season progresses.

Shollenberger was almost a month behind when he began recruiting, but Dodgers' scout Tony John says the prospects the new coach signed were top notch.
Joel Barnes photo

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Get off the pitcher's mound and Shollenberger can talk about a little experience. The catching duties will be handled by lettermen Dave Atkins and Maxie Kizzire. Atkins has the more powerful bat, but Kizzire posseses the more consistent one. Kizzire led the team in hitting with .324 in 1978, while Atkins' deadly arm kept him behind the plate for most of 1979.

Junior Gary Jack will hold down first base with hopes that his .285 batting average will pick up. Sal Valenti hit just .196 while playing second base last year, but it was his hustle that led Alabama to a new school record of 59 double plays breaking the old mark by some 31.

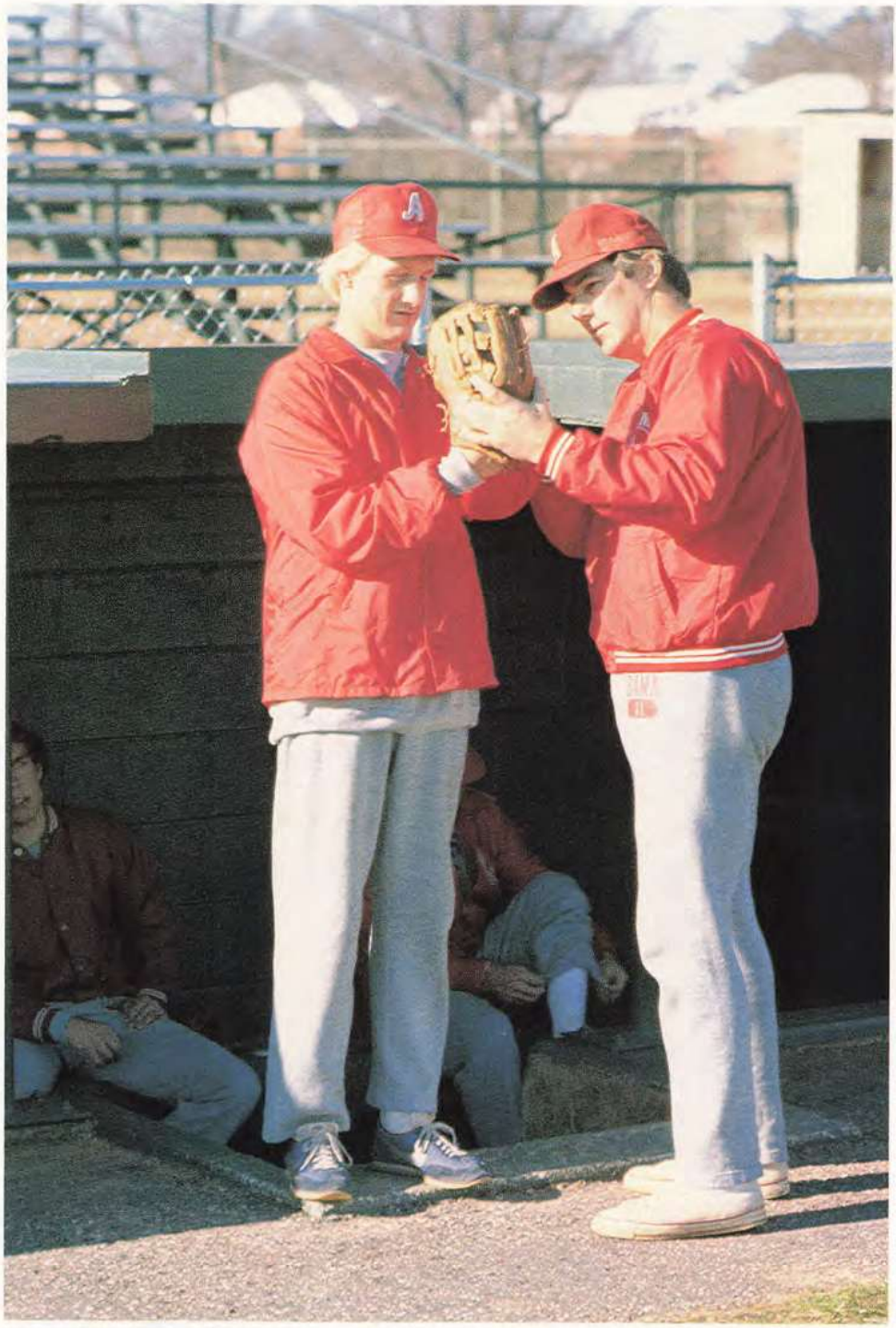
The shortstop and third base positions are open due to graduation with David McNabb of Jefferson State in Birmingham expected to grab short and David Moyer of Miami-Dade or footballer David Reeves of Dothan expected at third.

The outfield positions are also open due to graduations with only Rutsy Barton of Tuscaloosa returning with experiences. David Fowke (Bradenton JC), or Mark Dunning (George C. Wallace JC) are looking at the other two spots.

Kizzire or letterman Ronnie Whorton will most likely get the nod at the designated hitter positions.

"There's just no way I can possibly predict what kind of team we will be," Shollenberger says as opening day approaches. "We're going to start who we think has looked best so far and go from there. I don't know if we're to be a big inning team or one that just pecks away at you. We've exhibited a whole lot of good qualities, but none consistently.

"We've got the good attitude and that's a plus and I don't think there's anyone in the group that would mind being on the team that got Alabama baseball rolling on to bigger and better things. I think they all would like to be on the team that was remembered for getting Alabama baseball headed back toward the top."



Shollenberger spent five years in the minors as a pitcher, and needless to say, his specialty is the pitching staff. Here he gives a pointer to freshman lefthander David Peterson. Joel Barnes photo

CRIMSON GALLERY

A Freshman's Dream Come True

Less than a year ago freshman Mike Davis was banging the boards for Fayette County high school in places like Millport, Moundville, West Blocton and Holt. Today, the youngster can hit the court for nationally known Alabama in such places as El Paso, Lexington, Knoxville or Gainesville. It's quite a jump for a freshman, but it's indeed a dream come true. Spectrum-Southeast photo

C. M. Newton

Fulfilling His Goals

by Hank Brownstone

Charles Martin Newton does not remember exactly what went through his head that March afternoon in 1969 when he walked into his home in Lexington, Kentucky, and was told by his wife, Evelyn, that he had received an important telephone call from the University of Alabama.

He admits he was surprised. It is safe to assume he was shocked.

Newton, then an ultra-successful basketball coach at Transylvania, had a warm relationship going with University of Alabama Athletics Director Paul "Bear" Bryant—he had met the famous football coach as a student at Kentucky and had worked for him as an Alabama freshman basketball coach in 1965—but rarely, if ever, did they chit-chat on the telephone.

"I had no idea what coach Bryant wanted with me on the telephone that day," Newton says. "But you can bet I was quick returning his call."

The early parts of that conversation remain vague in the mind of Newton. But the words must have flowed something like the following . . .

"Coach Bryant, this is C. M. Newton returning your call from Transylvania."

Hello, C.M., how are you?"

"Fine, Coach, and you?"

"Fine, thank you, but we need a basketball coach. Do you think you would be interested in the job?"

The remainder of that conversation is clear.

"Coach Bryant offered me the job on the spot, but I misunderstood him," Newton said recently from his office in Memorial Coliseum at Alabama. "I thought he wanted me to come to Tuscaloosa for an interview, so I asked him for a date. He said he was not interested in me meeting anybody, that he just wanted to know if I wanted the job.

"I told him I needed to talk to Evelyn about it and he said he knew I had some questions, that he would call back tonight. When he called back, he answered most of my questions and I accepted the job."

The questions?

"I asked what kind of commitment Alabama was willing to make to basketball. He said he wanted a winning program, one that could compete for Southeastern Conference championships. Hearing him say that was enough. I knew about his integrity. I never asked anybody else for advice.

"I asked about the length of the contract and he said four years. That was long enough. I never asked about money.

"I asked if he was willing to help me build the program. He said he would, but he would not coach the team. That was good enough for me.

"Coach Bryant has lived up to his end of bargain on every point."

Newton has done that much and more.

Since 1972, Alabama is the only SEC school to post a winning record every year. Entering the final stretch of the season the Crimson Tide has a 12-year, 205-119 record under Newton, with its 183-65 record since 1972—the FOURTH season under Newton—ranking in the top 10 nationally.

Since the arrival of Newton, Alabama has made five national post-season tournament appearances—the National Invitation in 1973, 1977 and 1979 and the National Collegiate Athletic Association in 1975 and 1976—and two more of his Crimson Tide teams narrowly missed invitations.

Newton has guided Alabama to three SEC championships—1974, 1975 and 1976—and his Crimson Tide teams since 1972 have finished no worse than fourth in league standings. He has coached the player of the year in the SEC six of the last seven years—Wendell Hudson in 1973, Leon Douglas in 1975 and 1976, T.R. Dunn in 1977 and Reginald King in 1978 and 1979.

Newton ranks 15th among coaches in the nation with a 24-year, 384-256 record. He is in much demand at clinics across the country, most people wondering how in the name of James Naismith he was

The first few years for Newton were rocky, but by his fourth season he had Alabama in the prestigious NIT in New York's Madison Square Garden. His goals had begun to be met. Joel Barnes photo

able to build a championship basketball program at a football-oriented institution like Alabama.

"You have to have goals and you have to have a total commitment from the school," Newton says when asked that question privately. "We have had all of those things at Alabama.

"And, of course, the most important thing is players. People win for you and we have had some tremendous players and individuals at Alabama.

"In our situation, we had to have a commitment, time, financial resources—football carrying basketball until we were able to sustain ourselves—good people around me—assistant coaches like Wimp Sanderson, John Bostick, Wendell Hudson, Jock Sutherland and Leroy McClendon—and some luck. We have had all of those things.

"I believe strongly in goals and we set five basic ones when I took the job: (1) to gain respect for our program, (2) to gain some national recognition, (3) to win a SEC championship and therefore earn the right to play for a national championship, (4) to make basketball at Alabama self-supporting from a financial standpoint and (5) to get basketball at a level where all of our games are sellouts. We thought by reaching the first four, the last one would take care of itself. Unfortunately, that has not been the case."

Commitments, both competitively and financially, outstanding coaching help and quality players are obviously important assets, but every successful program has a strong man at the top and Newton has played that role admirably at Alabama.

It should also be noted that having a tough shell helps a man succeed, particularly when fans are impatient with him and he sees the need to be a social pacesetter of sorts.

In other words, Newton found slow acceptance among Alabama loyals, partly because wins were scarce in his first three seasons (4-20, 8-18 and 10-16) and very much because he believes strongly in recruiting athletes without regard to the color of their skin.

"Ironically, it took exactly four years (the length of his first contract) for us to see some progress in the area of wins and losses," Newton says. "And I can promise you there were a lot of doubts the first three.

"The first year was one of change in work habits, attitudes and establishing ourselves as bonafide basketball people. In that regard, there are four guys I will always owe a debt of gratitude.

"The players who receive most of the credit for building programs are the Hudsons, Douglases, Dunns, Kings and people like that. But you take Gary Elliott, Rich Deppe, David Mitchell and Tommy Suitts and throw them in there, too. (Playing at Alabama in 1969), those four guys contributed so much in helping us get this thing going. They really worked hard to set standards for others to follow.

"The first real frustration, the BIG frustration, came during my third year (1971). We were really on the verge of becoming a fine team when Hudson fractured his wrist in the first conference game. We had beaten Louisville in the pre-conference schedule and were really getting confidence.

"Consequently, that is when the real flak got started. It really affected my kids (Debbie, Tracy and Martin). They had never heard their daddy criticized and called a bunch of ugly names like they did at school that year. That was really tough on the girls. I think Martin handled it pretty well, maybe because he was so young, but things still got pretty shaky around the house.

"It was then that the uncomplimentary banners started dropping at games. Boy, were there some real winners! There were some bad things being said about me. I expected it, but my family had trouble coping with it. I would not be truthful if I said things did not get pretty hairy for awhile."

As Newton likes to say, he "stuck with his knitting"—and continued recruiting black athletes like Hudson, the first of his race to receive an Alabama scholarship—until wins started coming in droves and the storm subsided.

"Everybody should go through a 4-20 season," Newton says. "You can learn a lot about people by doing that. We had some people who stuck with us—I will always be indebted to them for that—but we had a lot who jumped off the ship, too.

"You can also learn a lot about yourself during seasons like that. You can check your persistence. It is not much fun losing. It is not much fun getting up every morning and feeling bad about yourself while looking in the mirror shaving."

From a standpoint of support, Newton and Alabama had trouble from 1969 through 1971. From a standpoint of numbers—the records his team were posting—there was cause of hope. Perhaps slow, progress was steady—a 4-20 start, an 8-18 follow and a 10-16 third time charm.

"I had fun from the first day I got here, because I enjoy coaching basketball," Newton says. "I did expect to win more than four games that first season. That season was enjoyable because that group of players, the ones who stayed with us, worked as hard as any we have had at Alabama."

The fruits of that labor came in 1972, when Alabama posted an 18-8 record and almost earned a National Invitation Tournament bid. it was down the stretch that season that Alabama earned two victories that enabled it to turn the corner leading to big-time basketball. On a February Saturday afternoon, the Crimson Tide beat Tennessee 72-67 in overtime at Memorial Coliseum. Two nights later in fron tof a sellout home crowd, the Crimson Tide beat Kentucky 73-70.

Ironically, those victories came about two months after Alabama beat South Florida and Southern Mississippi for the championship of its Alabama Classic Tournament. During the opening round of that tournament, there were several signs in Memorial Coliseum stating, "The 'Fig' Newton Record at Alabama, 23-55, Truly A Classic!"

Newton remembers.

Newton now smiles.

"We started an all-sophomore team my second season—the Jimmy Hollon, Bobby Lynch and Alan House era, if you please," Newton says. "Those were three more players I really appreciated. House, for instance, was the first player we recruited into the program. He joined us when we were down. That took some courage.

"When those guys were seniors, we turned the corner.

"There was another significant thing that happened while all the grumblings were going on. Coach Bryant and (associate athletics director) Sam Bailey renewed my contract. That stopped the criticism for awhile. It was like telling the fans, 'Well, you may not like him, but he is going to be here for awhile.' That meant so much to me. I will always be grateful for that."

Not only did that contractural agreement provide Newton with more time to build Alabama into a national power, it enhanced his respect for Bryant.

No matter that it made him wonder about the intelligence of the man who has built a football dynasty at Alabama.

"When you look at it, coach Bryant is probably the only man who felt like he had enough security, enough confidence in himself and enough guts to hire me." Newton said.

"Given a new coliseum, given the expectations of everybody at Alabama to go get a name coach and given the new beginning of basketball at Alabama, I will always be puzzled why he hired me. It was a gutsy move on his part. What he should have done was go get a big-name coach.

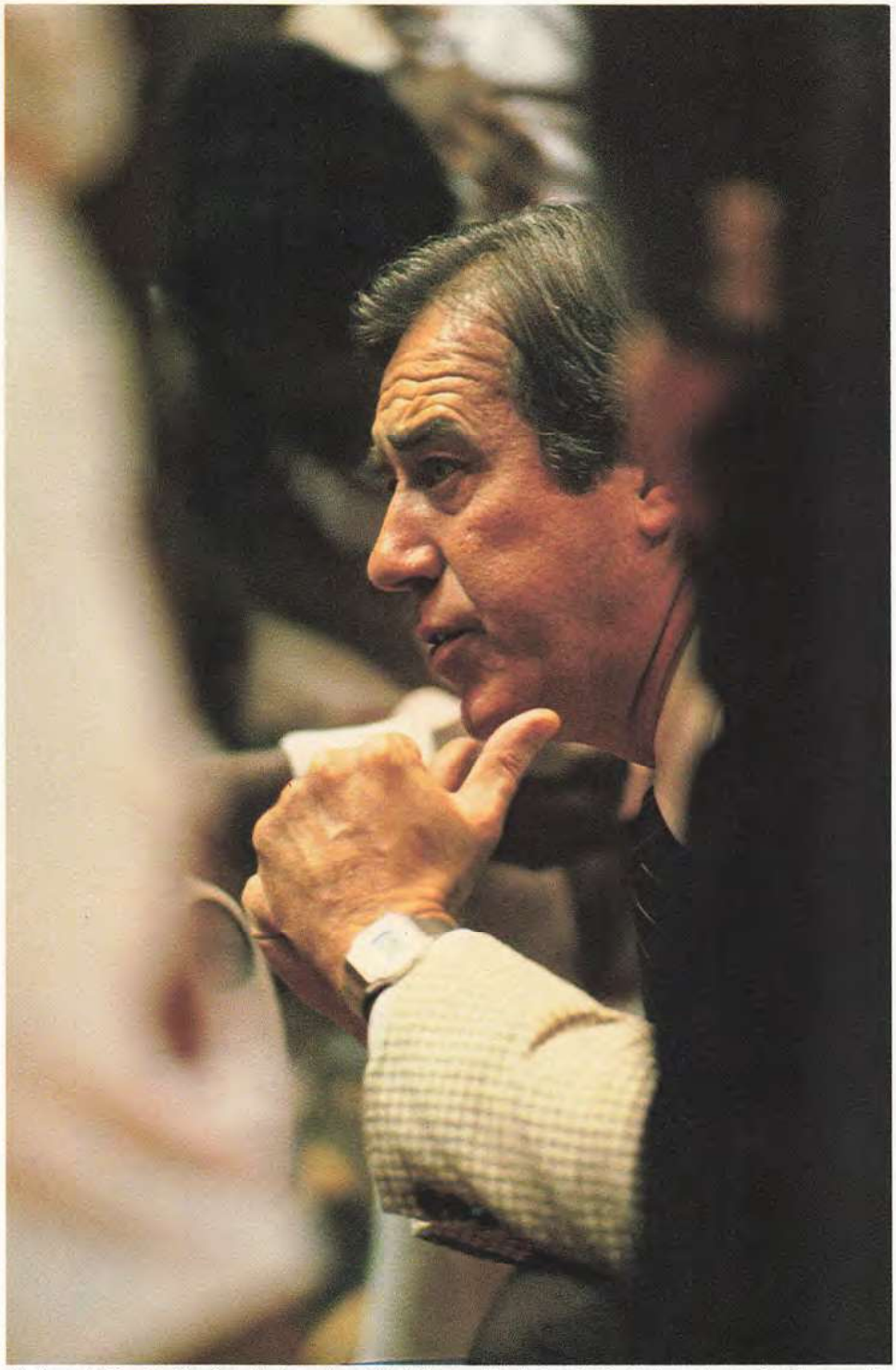
"To hire me and take that kind of criticism took guts."

What Newton does not realize is Bryant did his homework before putting himself to that kind of test. Sure Newton credentials were not sparkling—a basketball playing career under the immortal Adolph Rupp at Kentucky, a brief fling as a professional baseball pitcher in the New York Yankees organization and 12 years of basketball coaching at tiny Transylvania—but Bryant has always been a man who judged champions by their character and the rap sheet on Newton said he scored an A+ in that area.

Besides, Bryant had coached alongside Rupp at Kentucky and was quite impressed when the "Baron of the Bluegrass" labeled Newton a coach of championship potential.

"I had known about C.M. when we were at Kentucky together (in the early 1950s) and had always been impressed with him," Bryant says. "When Adolph said he was a good man for the job, that was all I needed to hear."

Rupp has had much influence on Newton and was as proud of him as anybody when Newton became the only Rupp disciple to beat his former coach in 1972.



Newton got his schooling from the legendary Alolph Rupp while playing for Kentucky and years later became the only Rupp pupil to defeat the master. Newton says Rupp taught him "how to win." Joel Barnes photo

"Coach Rupp taught a lot of people a lot of things," Newton says, "and there is no doubt that he had a major influence on my life and my coaching philosophy.

"Coach Rupp was a good friend of mind until his death. He was a unique individual. As a coach, he was ahead of his time. His record (880-190 in 41 seasons) will never be matched.

"I borrowed a lot from coach Rupp, but I would never try to coach like him. He taught me to be myself.

"But more than anything, coach Rupp taught me how to win."

C.M. Newton learned those lessons well—and has used them both on and off the court.

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A Winner Everytime Out

Boys will be boys and the waves crashing into Ft. Lauderdale beach looked too good to be true.

The storm-enraged Gulf of Mexico was sending its white-topping waves farther onto land than normal and although December, the invitation of fun was just too strong for vacationing Alabama swimmers Tommy Lindell and Don Hornby.

Florida beach regulars call the sport storm-surfing, while the tourists know it as body surfing. Either way the boys liked the challenge. Lindell peeled off his shirt and swam out to meet a moment he would never forget.

A monsterous wave came through and Lindell caught it. It was too big. The wave crashed Lindell's helpless body head first into the sand. The wave carried him onto the beach. Lindell knew he was hurt and hurt bad. He knew instantly he had broken his neck.

"I knew that if I didn't get up I would die," the Sweden native recalls of that fateful December day in 1978. "I got up and staggered along the beach, trying to get someone to help me. My English isn't that good and not many Florida people know Swedish. They all thought I was drunk or on drugs or something."

Lindell finally convinced a lifeguard that he was hurt badly. Lindell was rushed to the hospital and doctors said he was less than a centimeter from being a paraplegic. Doctors removed a piece of bone from his leg and placed it in his neck. For the first time in years swimming was not Lindell's number one goal: living then leading close to a normal life had suddenly taken over.

"Tommy went through hell," an assistant swim coach says. "He had to stay in Ft. Lauderdale for awhile then he returned to Alabama for his rehabilitation. At the final home meet of 1979, Lindell made it into the University Natatorium. The traditional introduction of the seniors was made, but the major applause belonged to a freshman named Tommy Lindell who, with his head held rigid by a neck brace, waved to the crowd as tears streamed down his face.

Tommy Lindell: A bigger winner than most think.

"A lick like he took would have killed most people," assistant swim coach Jonty Skinner says. "He is just so strong in the upper body and that saved him. He had lost 20 pounds at the end of last year and most of it was lost in the upper body, but we knew Tommy and we knew he was going to give a shot at a comeback. He had everyone pulling for him."

Lindell's recovery was almost unbelievable. He went back to work as soon as the neck brace was removed and worked himself back into shape. He regained his body weight and the old feeling for the pool returned. His times began a turn for the better and soon he was swimming competitive times. A string of third place finishes greeted him at the start of the season and against North Carolina in Novemember he managed a win in the 200 butterfly.

Number eight ranked Tennessee cruised into Tuscaloosa February 2 to face the unranked Crimson Tide with the home boys not given much chance at winning. In the first event, the Medley relay team of Hornby, Lindell, Greg Higginson and Bob Dimick pulled off a stunning upset by beating the Vols. Heading into only the second event, Tennessee was in deep trouble. Seven events later it was over when the broad-shouldered Lindell streaked across the line first to take the 200 butterfly.

Lindell will be a member of Sweden's Olympic team that travels to Moscow this summer for the 1980 games. And although Lindell is not even close to being a favorite in his event, he is a little more experienced than most when it comes to beating the odds. Don't count him out.

—Mike Bolton

Off-Season Football

Championship Defense Begins As Soon As Won

by Kirk McNair

Should Jacobs not recover from knee surgery or should backup Alan Gray not pan out, sophomore Michael Landrum will be waiting in the wings. Steadman Shealy calls Landrum "football smart" and says he "is 10 times better than I was at his age."

University of Alabama photo

There's an old joke applied to most college teams that rank among the top football powers that the only two seasons are football and spring football. Even if Alabama was not strong in many other sports, that would be far from the truth in the Crimson Tide camp.

Alabama head coach Paul Bryant was asked about his Crimson Tide's chances fo the 1980 season a few days following the successful completion of the 1979 year in which a second straight (and sixth overall) national championship was added. "That all depends on how much it means to us *now,*" he said. "Not next fall, not in the summer, not during spring training. We've got to get ready now or it will be too late.

"Football is year-round now," he said. "It's difficult to discipline yourself to get back on the right track and do what it takes to win each day. I'll guarantee you that all of ours haven't gotten their feet back on the ground to do what it takes, beginning with their schoolwork.

"It's going to be more difficult for us to win next season than it was this last year because everyone's going to be wanting to knock us off," he added. "Some of our best people haven't gotten back in the groove; and they've got to do more than get back in the groove."

Coach Bryant took part of the blame, saying "I haven't been around. I don't do anything but look at them, but I haven't been here enough to do that." It goes without saying that the demands on coach Bryant's time are enormous, but he hopes to be sticking closer to campus as spring training nears.

This year the Tide is expected to begin spring practice about March 17 (possibly as late as March 19) and play the annual A-Day game on April 12 (the weekend after Easter), probably again leaving a couple of 20 allotted drills until after the spring game.

Generally speaking, the problems facing Bama in spring training are: What is the status of numerous players recuperating from injury? Who will replace the nine starters lost from the offensive unit (and particularly who will be the quarterback)? And, if one or more

Defensive tackle Byron Braggs should have one spot locked up if he can come up with more consistent play in 1980. His only restrictions are the ones he puts on himself. University of Alabama photo

defensive backs is shifted to quarterback, how will that upset the secondary?

It doesn't take a particularly astute observer to see that every major concern revolves around the crucial quarterback position.

If Don Jacobs returns to top form and if little-used backup men Alan Gray and Mike Landrum continue to progress as they did in late fall, Bama should be in good shape at the important quarterback position, which means that outstanding defensive backs Tommy Wilcox and Jim Bob Harris (both converted from quarterback) can remain in what should be an outstanding secondary.

"Expect the unexpected" is a watchword of coach Bryant. What is the unexpected? That Jacobs will return to form, or that he will not? That Gray and Landrum will prove capable of moving the Tide, or that they will not?

Coach Bryant said that he had promised both Harris and Wilcox an opportunity to work at quarterback this spring if they wanted it and that he would not try to influence their decisions. However, he added that "Jim Bob has such quickness, speed and hands that there's no telling how good a safety he can be. And that other little guy (Wilcox), well you just look where the ball is and you'll find him. He'll hit you."

Coach Bryant says "the first thing we've got to do, and we can't do it overnight, is find a quarterback. We can't count on Jacobs. I think that Gray and Landrum improved tremendously last year." He said that they would get the bulk of work in the early going this spring. "If they can't move the team, we'll have to go another way, perhaps Greg Haynes." Haynes took over scout team quarterbacking duties from Landrum following Jacobs' re-injury of his knee in the Auburn game so that Landrum could be ready for wishbone quarterbacking if needed in the Sugar Bowl behind Steadman Shealy and Gray. While it would be nice to work those three, Wilcox and Harris, Bama faces the problem of not having enough football players to work five quarterbacks.

That brings up a really intriguing possibility. Coach Bryant has told Major Ogilvie privately that Major is going to be worked at quarterback this spring. It reminds one of late 1971 when Johnny Musso was given work at quarterback in practice (although never in games). Coach Bryant worried at that time that opponents were attemping to make the quarterback keep the football.

Of course, Musso had played quarterback in high school (albeit not much), while Ogilvie never has.

The best thing about Ogilvie being at quarterback in spring training is that it would protect Major from the rigors of running the football while giving younger halfbacks the practice they need. However, Major is a senior and historically returning senior starters have a pretty easy time of it in spring training.

No doubt coach Bryant spots the qualities in Major that he likes to have in a quarterback. And who knows more about quarterbacks than coach Bryant?

Jacobs came out of his leg cast in mid-January and is now jogging, lifting weights and throwing. He will begin a more intense running program as February comes to a close. He will not take part in spring training, although he will be on the field running. If his recuperation is successful he will be given first shot at running the Tide offense in the fall.

Only Bama starters from 1979 returning are halfbacks Major Ogilvie and Billy Jackson. It could be that Jackson will be moved back to fullback, where he had a very successful 1978. Alabama appears to have depth and quality at halfback spots with the likes of Mark Nix, Jeff Fagan, Kenny Simon, Roosevelt Wilder,

Mitch Ferguson, Reggie Brown, Joe Jones and Ben Orcutt. Some of them, notable Ferguson, have been injury-prone.

Fullback candidates in addition to Jackson are John Hill and Charley Williams.

Late in the year Keith Marks came on to be Keith Pugh's top backup man at split end and he'll start there in the spring. Tim Clark has blazing speed, but has not been impressive catching the football. "He leveled off and was not as productive as when he was a freshman," said coach Bryant. "I expect Ry Ogilvie to improve quickly when he starts improving at split end," added the coach. "He puts a lot into it. He doesn't have good hands, but neither did Ray Perkins when he got here. Ry grew so fast from high school senior to college freshman that he didn't have good body control last year." Coach Bryant also mentioned the possibility of moving running back Earl Collins to split end, although he labeled Collins as another with good speed and bad hands.

Tight end returns Bart Krout, who has been hampered by injuries since coming to Alabama, and Larry Brown. Krout missed the Sugar Bowl when he twisted an ankle in practice a week before the game. Brown is really not fast enough for tight end and may move in a spot to offensive tackle. There's a possibility that Denny Merrit could be moved from offensive line to tight end.

Alabama's defense is mixed with young and old, but experience is everywhere. Thomas Boyd (90), Tommy Wilcox (15), E. J. Junior (39) and Jim Bob Harris (9) all started young and were a big part of the Tide defense that led the nation last year.
University of Alabama photo

Unquestionably, the area of most experimentation and hardest work will be among offensive linemen this spring. One of Alabama's best assistant coaches, Dee Powell, is in charge of whipping an offensive line into shape. He may get Joe Beazley from the defensive side, but for the most part he'll have to make his line from men who saw only limited work as backup men over the past season or two. Farthest along is left tackle Eddie McCombs, although he was hampered by injury this year. Almost sure to be a starter somewhere is Steve Mott, who coach Bryant says "is going to be a player." The coach said that Mott, Joe Robbins, Scott Allison, Danny Holcombe, Bob Dasher and Doug Collins "will be put into a group trying both guard and center. We'll find some good enough and then move on." The tackles are expected to come from McCombs, Bill Searcey (very strong in the upper body, but not as strong in the legs as he needs to be), Mike McQueen (a quick learner who needs weight at 227), Doug Faust (out last year with mononucleosis), Bob Cayavec (a hard hitter), John Cook and Jeff Miller. Randy Edwards, as already reported, will be out for spring training after missing last fall with a kidney ailment, but will not go full speed.

Coach Bryant admits that if he must rebuild an entire unit he would prefer to have to rebuild the offense rather than the defense. This year the Tide has almost everyone back from a defense that led the nation in stopping opponents short of the goalline. "If our defensive players set their goals high and work hard and get a little help and if we don't lose two or three key people in the secondary or at linebacker, then we have a chance to have an outstanding defense, I think," says the Bama head coach.

Lost from the starting defensive unit are end Wayne Hamilton, tackle David Hannah and defensive halfback Don McNeal.

E. J. Junior returns at right end and everyone on the Alabama coaching staff believes he can be a truly great player. Providing depth and a left end will be Gary DeNiro, John Mauro and Mike Pitts, with Pitts probably the early choice for Hamilton's replacement. All three are hitters.

Two of the three down linemen will almost certainly be noseguard Warren Lyles and tackle Byron Braggs. Braggs, as Junior, has only the limits he puts on himself to keep him from being great. The other spot will be filled by either Jackie Cline or Scott Homan, or possibly Beazley if he stays on defense.

Coach Bryant notes "we have our linebackers back and we ought to be better." The returnees are Thomas Boyd, Randy Scott and Robbie Jones. Joining them will be a redshirted sophomore transfer, Eddie Lowe, Woodrow's younger brother. As the returning Bama linebackers, Lowe is small, but quick, strong and a contact football player.

The secondary is a matter of concern only if there are transfers to quarterback. McNeal's spot at left halfback will probably be taken by soph Jeremiah Castille, who was very solid in his freshman performance with the varsity. Wilcox came on to be a very fine strong safety in his first varsity season. Jim Bob Harris is a seasoned safety, although just an upcoming junior. Ricky Tucker has been a standout at both safety and right halfback, although he's been hampered by injuries late in each of the past two seasons. Mike Clements

came on last season to be a solid performer at right cornerback. Ken Coley and Jerrill Sprinkle suffered through injuries last year, but could be back in 1980 in the secondary, as could David Reeves. Al Blue will almost certainly be a regular in the Alabama defensive backfield.

While most everyone thinks in terms of the offensive and defensive players, coach Bryant notes "the game begins with a kick and more games are won or lost on the kicking game than any other way."

Alabama's kicking teams have been an important part of Crimson Tide success. While most of that work will wait until fall, there are two spots that must be filled. Alan McElroy has graduated from placekicking and Barry Smith from snapping. Woody Umphrey returns to punt for his third season. Practice watchers of the past fall have no doubts that Bama's placekicker the next three years will be a transfer from Hawaii, Peter Kim. He's a soccer-style kicker who once kicked a 64-yard field goal, against Southern Cal. He saw Alabama on television and decided the Crimson Tide needed a kicker of his quality. Also in the battle will be Paul Trodd, also a soccer-style kicker, who came to Alabama from Eufaula high school, but who is originally from Great Britain. He was very successful in kicking for the Bama junior varisty last fall.

Coach Bryant said "I've been thinking that the last three years were building years, but this is REALLY a building year."

More than anything, coach Bryant expresses concern about attitude. "Right now we're not doing the things it takes to be winners," he moans. "We're still accepting congratulations for what has been done." However, recently on Friday mornings at 6 a.m. more than 30 Crimson Tide players showed up to get in an off-season program of running and weight lifting. Ordinarily, football players as other students, leave town on Friday afternoon after classes and the Friday conditioning drills are skipped. Bama coaches view the Friday morning efforts as a positive sign.

Gary White, who is academic counselor for Crimson Tide athletes, also reports that fall grades among football players were "overall the best ever." There are a few players with problems, but all-in-all academics should not be of great concern.

Only three of the players that coach Bryant mentions as having suffered from lack of work because of injuries last fall are expected to miss spring drills—Jacobs, Coley and Reeves. And Reeves is going to participate in baseball this spring. The others—Haynes, Faust, McCombs, Allison, McQueen, Searcey, Cook, Doug Collins, Cayavec, Cline, Homan, Beazley, Sprinkle, Ferguson, Nix, Orcutt, Haney, Reggie Brown and Earl Collins—should all be able to have at least limited work this spring.

Alabama is an unusual situation, that of defending back-to-back national championships. The last time Bama was in this position was in 1966. Alabama went 11-0 that year, including a rout of Nebraska in the Sugar Bowl. Nevermind that the voters elected to place the Crimson Tide third behind Notre Dame and Michigan State that year. Bama did what it had to do. Was there anything special about defending back-to-back national titles in 1966?

"Really, the only thing I remember going into spring training that year was that we had such great leadership," says coach Bryant. "We had guys like Jerry Duncan and Charley Stephens and Dennis Homan and Ray Perkins and Bob Childs and so many others back from that '65 team. And, of course, Snake had a great year." Snake, of course, is Ken Stabler.

Pre-season accounts of Alabama football before the 1966 season doubted that Bama could make it three in a row. The reason? Consensus opinion was that for the first time in years, coach Bryant didn't have a good quarterback.

Probably no one member of the Alabama squad takes a beating like halfback Major Ogilvie. The hard-running, hard-hitting Birmingham native will be back for his final season.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

BAMA SCORECARD

Carruth Signs

High School All-America back Paul Carruth of Summit, Mississippi became Alabama's 29th football signee when he signed recently. Carruth played at Parklane Academy where he gained over 1,500 yards last season and averaged 9.9 per carry. Carruth was named the number one prospect in Mississippi by several publications, named the Mississippi Sportswriters Association back of the year, named to the top 100 players in the nation and Academic All-America.

Carruth runs a 4.6 40-yard dash and has played halfback, quarterback and safety in high school.

He plans to major in either art or business at Alabama.

Blount Out

Baseballer Mike Blount, who recently was given an extra year of eligibility by the Southeastern Conference under the hardship injury rule, recently broke his pitching hand and is out indefinitely.

Blount was injured after pitching one inning his freshman season and saw no more action that season. He applied for the hardship during the past summer and received the ruling in January. Blount lettered in 1977-79 and was to be the only returning letterman pitcher for first-year coach Barry Shollenberger.

New Faces Excel

Track Coach John Mitchell has already gotten some pleasant surprises from some new faces on his track team this season. Hreinn Halldorsson, a freshman from Iceland, has already shattered the school record for the shot put with a 64'-5¾ throw this season.

Footballer Kenny Simon ran a 7.22 in the hurdles in the Indiana Relays recently. Both marks qualified for the NCAA Nationals in Detroit later this season.

1980 Football Schedule

Alabama's opening football game of the 1980 season with Georgia Tech in Birmingham has been changed from September 13th to September 6th to avoid a convention that would have had every hotel room in the city booked solid, and opens a year when the Crimson Tide will be seeking its third straight National Championship.

Birmingham games are with Georgia Tech, Kentucky, Notre Dame and Auburn, while Tuscaloosa will be the location of battles with Vanderbilt, Southern Mississippi and Louisiana State.

Bama's road games in 1980 will be to Jackson twice to play Ole Miss and Mississippi State, to Knoxville to play Tennessee and a visit to East Rutherford, New Jersey, where the Tide will met Rutgers.

All 11 of the Crimson Tide games will be day games in 1980.

Bama meeting LSU in Tuscaloosa will be the first time since 1926 those teams have played on campus. Since the series

The only Alabama pitcher with any experience returning for the Crimson Tide this year, Mike Blount, has been lost indefinitely with a broken hand.

University of Alabama Photo

was resumed in 1964, all Tide home games have been played in Birmingham. The change was made in order to give better balance to Alabama's home schedule since it would be meant playing three straight games in Birmingham without the change.

"We got permission from Georgia Tech to move our opening game up one week due to the hotel problem we would have encountered on Sept. 13th. We didn't feel it would be fair to the fans of either school to play on a weekend when rooms weren't available," said Alabama coach Paul (Bear) Bryant.

The Southern Mississippi game on Oct. 25 in Tucaloosa will be the Homecoming game.

1980 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Game Time
Sept. 6	Georgia Tech	Birmingham	1:30
Sept. 20	Mississippi	Jackson	1:30
Sept. 27	Vanderbilt	Tuscaloosa	1:30
Oct. 4	Kentucky	Birmingham	1:30
Oct. 11	Rutgers	East Rutherford, N.J.	1:30*
Oct. 18	Tennessee	Knoxville	2:00*
Nov. 1	Mississippi State	Jackson	1:30
Nov. 8	Louisiana State	Tuscaloosa	1:30
Nov. 15	Notre Dame	Birmingham	1:30
Nov. 29	Auburn	Birmingham	1:30

(HC) Homecoming *Eastern Time

A Rare Spot

Jack Hairston, sports editor of the *Gainesville Sun,* recently had this report:

"Bear Bryant, the legendary Alabama football coach, attended Kingsland Elementary School in Arkansas almost 60 years ago.

"He's still remembered there. A recent poll was held among Kingsland alumni to determine the school's most distinguished graduate.

"Bryant finished second . . . behind Johnny Cash."

Gymnastics Meet

Alabama hosts the AIAW Region 3 Gymnastics Championship March 22. Teams competing for the title won by Georgia last year will be Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Georgia and Jacksonville State.

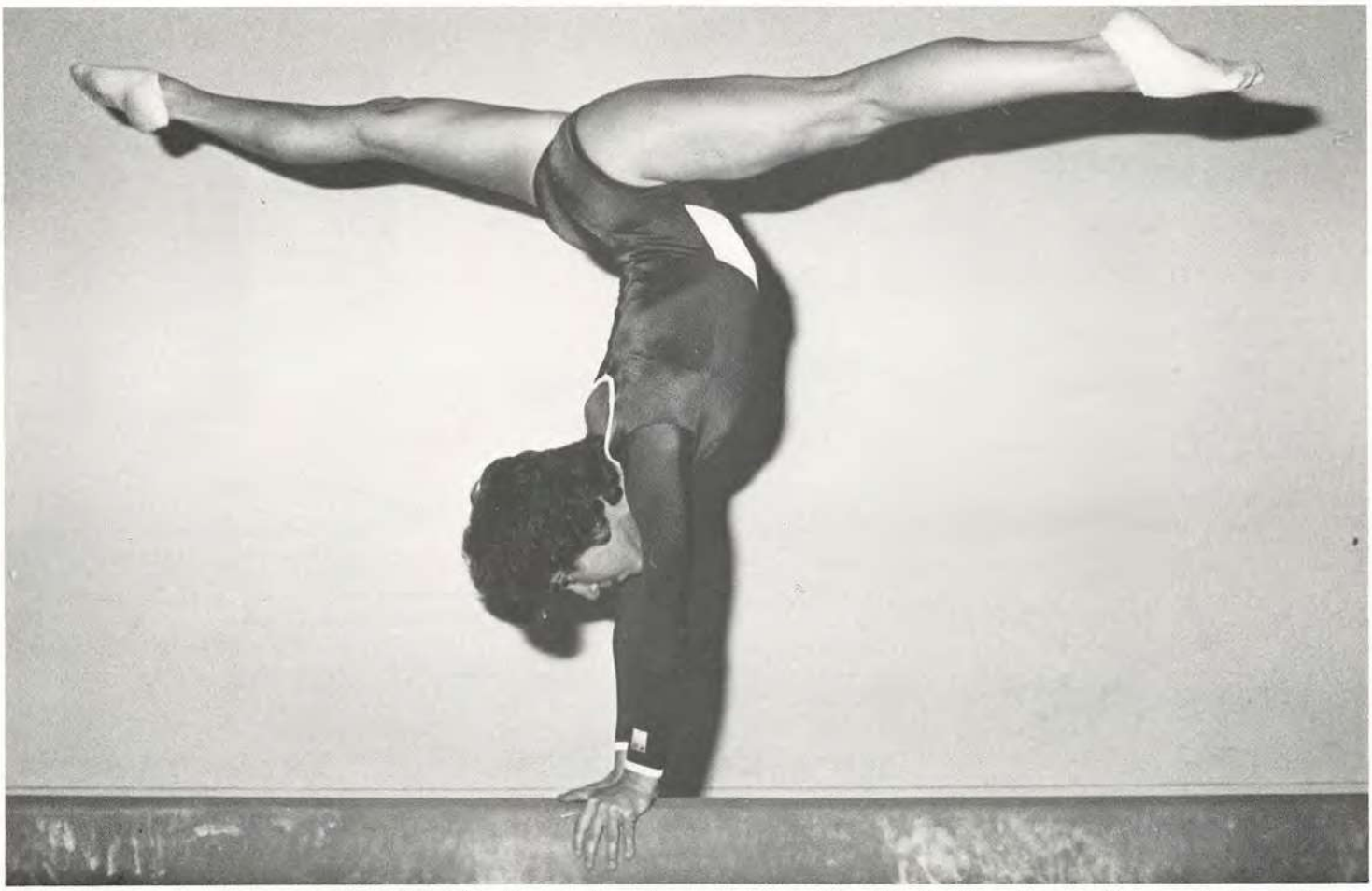
The day long competition will have finals at 7 p.m.

Florida, Georgia and Jacksonville State are ranked in the top twenty in Division I this year.

Jim Bunch Day

The state legislature of the state of Virginia recently passed a resolution proclaiming a day last week Jim Bunch Day. The Mechanicsville native was cited for his role in being a four-year starter for the Crimson Tide. Bunch was three-time All-SEC and twice All-America. He was greeted by a parade and a crowd of over 3,000 in his hometown.

—Mike Bolton



Alabama's all-around gymnast Luann Guzzetti of New Galilee, Pennsylvania, performs a handstand with a split on the balance beam. She'll be in regional competition at Alabama March 22.

University of Alabama Photo

BAMA'S WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

N. 30 Maine (76-59)
D. 3 LaSalle (80-82)
D. 4 Northeastern (88-73)
D. 8 @Wisconsin (66-62)
D. 15 Vanderbilt
D. 19 @Tennessee (79-78)
D. 21 Georgia Tech @ Roanoke, Va. (83-59)
D. 22 Virginia Tech or Miami, O. (87-69)
D. 28 @St. Louis (75-83)
D. 29 Houston, UTEP (75-83)
J. 2 @ Miss. State (66-80)
J. 5 Ole Miss (78-56)
J. 7 @ LSU (TV) (57-56)
J. 12 @ Kentucky (78-64)
J. 16 Georgia (65-78)
J. 19 Florida (TV) (80-62)
J. 23 @ Auburn (50-46)
J. 26 Tennessee (72-59)
J. 30 Miss. State (TV) (80-68)
F. 2 @ Ole Miss (65-71)
F. 6 LSU (66-68)
F. 9 Kentucky (TV) (63-72)
F. 11 @ Georgia (TV) (68-66)
F. 16 @ Florida (84-73)
F. 20 Auburn
F. 23 @ Vanderbilt (TV)
F. 27-M. 1 SEC Tourney

MEN'S SWIMMING

N. 15 @ North Carolina (67-45)
N. 16 @ North Carolina St. (36-77)
N. 30 Florida State (81-52)
D. 8 Ohio State (82-51)
J. 5 @ Princeton (71-42)
J. 11 Missouri (76-39)
J. 19 @ Auburn (42-71)
J. 25 Tulane (70-61)
J. 26 LSU (61-50)
F. 2 Tennessee (79-34)
F. 14-16 SIC @ Athens, Ga.
F. 23 Florida
M. 6-8 SEC @ Athens, Ga.
M. 27-29 NCAA @ Cambridge, Mass.

MEN'S TRACK

J. 19 Houston, FSU,
LSU @ LSU (Ala. 2nd)
F. 9 Texas A&M, Houston, (Ala. 3rd)
Auburn, LSU @ LSU
F. 16 @ Montgomery Inv.
F. 29-M. 1 SEC @ LSU
M. 14-15 NCAA @Detroit

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

N. 27 Troy State (90-72)
N. 29 @ Oregon (73-94)
D. 1 @ Mississippi State (72-75)
D. 6 UAH (95-65)
D. 8 @ UAB (75-65)
D. 15 @ Ala. State
J. 4-6 @ Miami Inv.
Upper Iowa (77-41)
Miami (73-61)
Edinboro State (72-74)
West Point (50-62)
J. 7 @ Valdosta State (65-74)
J. 10 Tennessee (68-88)
J. 12 Florida State (88-61)
J. 14 UAH (75-61)
J. 17 UAB (69-72)
J. 19 Florida (85-62)
J. 23 @ Auburn (71-77)
J. 26 Arkansas (54-68)
J. 28 South Alabama (56-72)
J. 30 South Carolina (47-58)
F. 2 @ Ole Miss (70-72)
F. 7-9 SEC @ Tennessee
F. 14 MUW
F. 16 LSU
F. 21-23 State Tourney
M. 6-9 Region Tourney
@ Delta State
M. 20-22 National Tourney
@ Central Michigan

WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

D. 8 Indiana (131.5-127.45)
J. 9 Auburn (122.95-117.1)
J. 9 Kentucky (122.95-115)
J. 11 Towson State (125.6-120.75)
J. 11 North Carolina (125.6-127.7)
J. 19 Auburn & ETSU (130.35-127.50-112.35)
J. 26 Western Ken.
& Texas A&M (133.1-130.5-118.25)
F. 1 @ Memphis St. (135.95-126.05)
F. 2 Southern Miss
& Jeff State @ B'ham
(132.25-122.80-122.50)
F. 8 Louisville & Georgia
@ Athens (135.05-131.2-128.2)
F. 9 Duke & Georgia Col.
@ Georgia College
(128.65-124.7-115.30)
F. 16 Jacksonville State
F. 23 @ Florida
M. 8 State Meet
M. 21-22 Region Meet

WOMEN'S TRACK

J. 19 @ LSU & Houston, FSU (Ala. 2nd)
F. 9 @ LSU, Texas A&M,
Houston, Auburn (Ala. 3rd)
F. 16 @ Montgomery Inv.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

N. 15 @ North Carolina (56-84)
N. 16 @ North Carolina St. (63-68)
N. 30 Florida State (59-72)
D. 8 Ohio State (78-53)
J. 11 Missouri (75-47)
J. 19 @ Auburn (68-70)
J. 25 Tulane (30-26)
J. 26 LSU (83-57)
F. 2 Tennessee (77-63)
F. 13-15 SIC @ Athens, Ga.
F. 28-
M. 1 Region Meet
M. 20-22 National Meet
@ Las Vegas

MEN'S BASEBALL

F. 22 @Georgia Southern
F. 23 @Georgia Southern
F. 24 Georgia Southern
F. 26 Livingston
F. 29 Jackson State
M. 1 Mississippi (2)
M. 2 Mississippi
M. 5 North Alabama
M. 6 Kentucky
M. 7 Thomas Moore
M. 8 @South Alabama (2)
M. 9 @South Alabama
M. 10 Morehead State
M. 11 Jacksonville State
M. 13 Southern Mississippi
M. 15 @Mississippi State
M. 16 @Mississippi State
M. 18 Huntingdon
M. 19 @Birmingham Southern
M. 21 Cleveland State
M. 22 Louisiana State (2)
M. 23 Louisiana State
M. 25 Florida
M. 26 Florida
M. 29 Auburn
M. 30 Auburn
A. 1 @Jacksonville State
A. 2 @Montevallo
A. 5 @Mississippi (2)
A. 6 @Mississippi
A. 8 @Huntington
A. 10 UAB
A. 12 South Alabama
A. 13 South Alabama (2)
A. 16 @Livingston
A. 19 Mississippi State (2)
A. 20 Mississippi State
A. 22 Montevallo
A. 25 @Southern Mississippi
A. 26 Louisiana State (2)
A. 27 @Louisiana State
A. 29 @UAB
A. 30 Birmingham Southern
M. 3 @Auburn
M. 4 @Auburn

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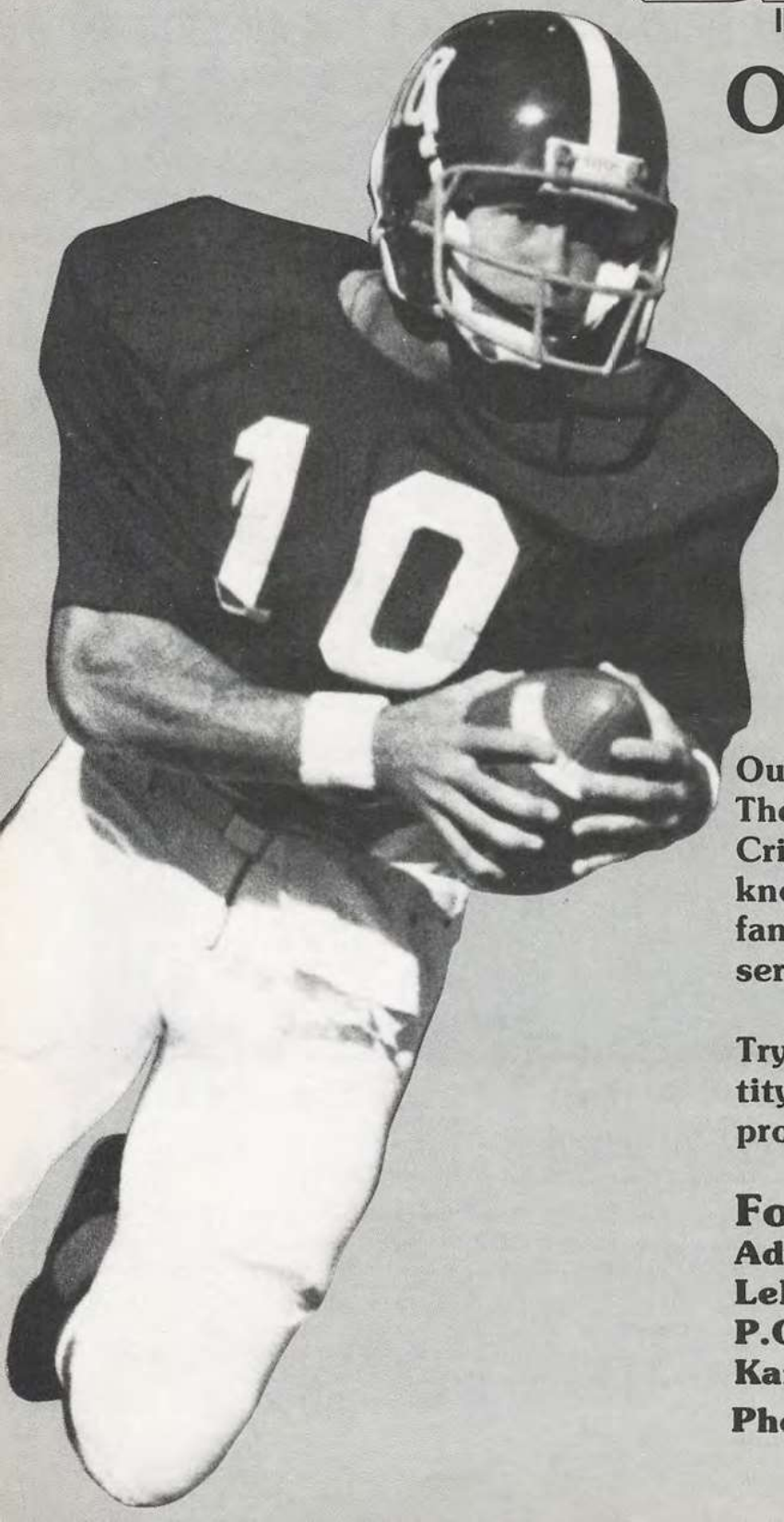

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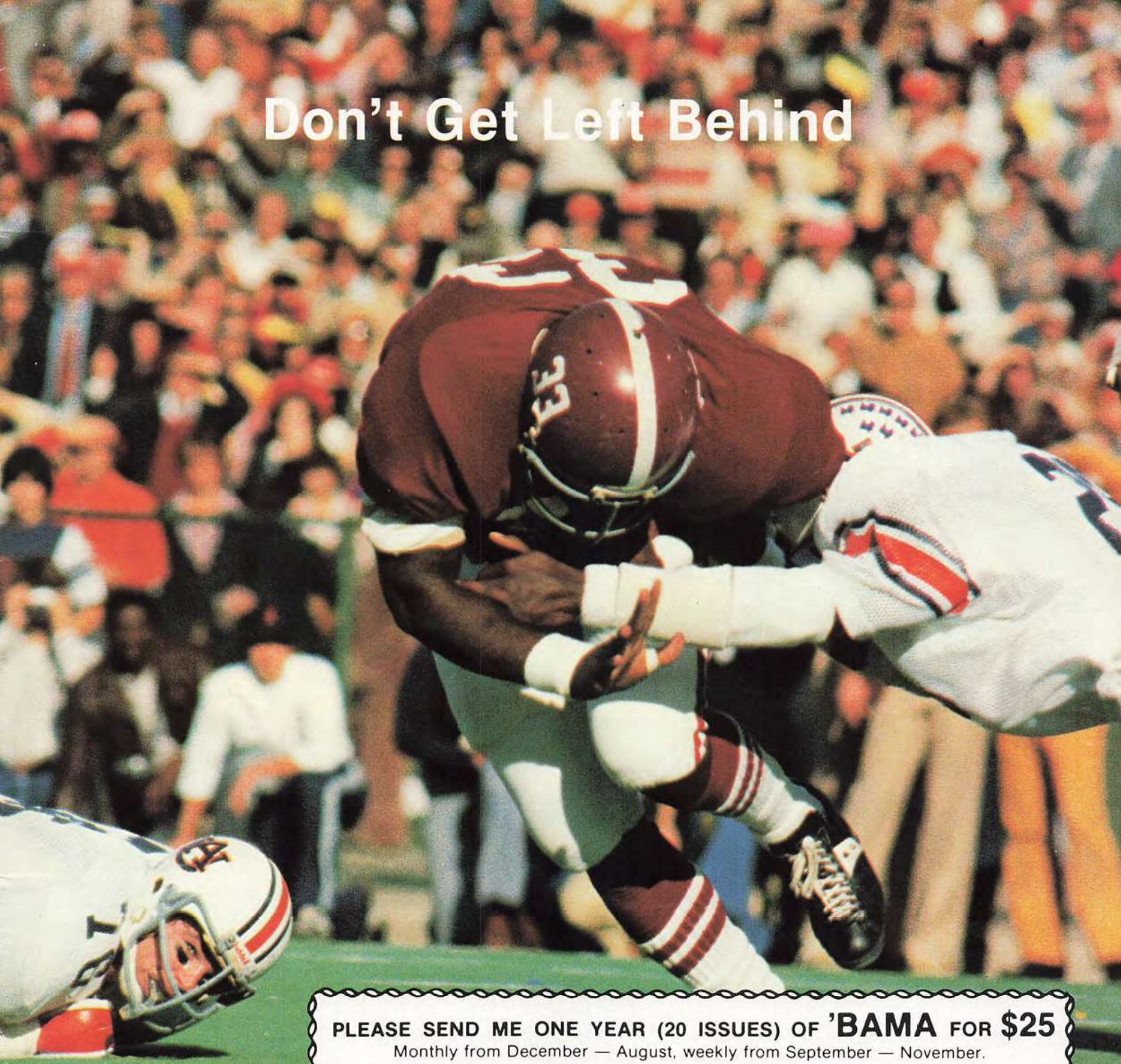

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